

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-13, 15-24, 26-33 and 35-37 are pending in this application.

Claims 26-33 and 37 are allowed.

Claims 1-5, 7-13 15, 16 and 18-24 are rejected.

Claims 6, 17, 35 and 36 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 15 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings, as originally filed.

Rejection of Claims 1, 7, 8, and 13 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 7, 8, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,795,038 to Fuller et al. (hereafter Fuller '038). Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 35. Claims 7, 8 and 13 all depend from independent claim 1 and are believed to also be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant believes that the rejection has been obviated by amendment. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 2-5, 9-11, 15-16, 18-24 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2-5, 9-11, 15-16, 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,795,038 to Fuller et al. (hereafter Fuller '038) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,489,870 to Ward, et al. (hereafter Ward '870). Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 15 to include the allowable subject matter of

dependent claims 35 and 36 respectively. Applicant believes that these independent claims are in condition for allowance. Since the rejected claims 2-5, 9-11, 16 and 18-24 either depend indirectly or directly upon now allowable independent claims 1 and 15, Applicant believes that the rejection has been obviated by amendment. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 12 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,795,038 to Fuller et al. (hereafter Fuller '038) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,530,486 to Rusnak (hereafter Rusnak '486). Claim 12 is dependent upon independent claim 1 which has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 35. Therefore, Applicant believes that the rejection of dependent claim 12 has been obviated by the above described amendment to independent claim 1. Removal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant kindly thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 6, 17 and 35-36 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has cancelled claims 6 and 17. Claims 35 and 36 have been amended into independent claims 1 and 15 respectively. Therefore, claims 35 and 36 have also been cancelled.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 26-33 and 37 are allowed. Applicant respectfully requests this case to issue.

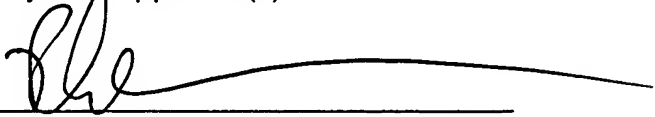
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the above amendments and remarks that claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-16, 18-24, 26-33 and 37, as presented, are now in allowable form and issuance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 364-4300 if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated:

Jan 19, 2007

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